

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE: JOHN G. DAY:MP

APPROVED BY P MR. SISCO

EUR - W. STABLER

S/S :REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220168

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: ZOLOTAS AND PAPALYGOURAS MEET UNDERSECRETARY SISCO

1. SUMMARY. UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SISCO RECEIVED OCTOBER 4 GREEK MINISTER OF COORDINATION ZOLOTAS AND AND GOVERNOR OF BANK OF GREECE PAPALYGOURAS WHO HAVE BEEN ATTENDING CURRENT IMF-IBRD MEETINGS. BOTH ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED ECONOMISTS, AND BOTH ARE CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS. CONVERSATION FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON CYPRUS, GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, AND GREEK ELECTIONS.

2. SISCO STATED THAT, WHATEVER OUR PAST OR PRESENT DIFFERENCES ARE, U.S. AND GREECE STILL HAVE COMMON INTERESTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING KARAMANLIS SUCCEED IN HIS EFFORTS TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC RULE IN GREECE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A DELICATE PERIOD FOR GREECE WITH AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY, AND WE UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS IN GREECE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. NOT BECOME THE WHIP-PING BOY IN THE CAMPAIGN. THIS WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL EITHER  
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TO THE U.S. OR TO KARAMANLIS. ON CYPRUS, THE SITUATION IS STILL DELICATE, BUT CLERIDES IS DOING AN EFFECTIVE JOB. THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO GET STARTED A PROCESS WHICH WILL FACILITATE FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE THAT A SETTLEMENT MUST MEET THE MINIMAL NEEDS OF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY, AS WELL AS OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND, AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONCESSIONS MUST COME FROM THE TURKISH SIDE.

3. IN RESPONSE, ZOLOTAS INDICATED THAT HE IS MODERATELY HOPEFUL A CYPRUS SOLUTION WILL EVENTUALLY BE FOUND, BUT THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT A FUTURE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OVER AEGEAN ISSUES E.G. CONTINENTAL SHELF, TERRITORIAL SEAS, TURKISH MINORITY IN THRACE, GREEK MINORITY IN ISTANBUL, CONTROL OF AIR SPACE IN AEGEAN. BOTH ZOLOTAS AND PAPALYGOURAS EXPRESSED FEAR THAT TURKS, MOTIVATED BY THEIR SUCCESS ON CYPRUS, WILL PROVOKE AN INCIDENT TO JUSTIFY A MOVE TO GAIN CONTROL OVER ONE OR MORE GREEK ISLANDS LYING OFF THE TURKISH COAST. THEY URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES USE ITS INFLUENCE NOT ONLY TO HELP ACHIEVE A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BUT ALSO TO FORESTALL ANY AGGRESSIVE MOVE BY THE TURKS IN THE AEGEAN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY SISCO, ZOLOTAS SAID THAT TWO OR THREE WEEKS AGO HE THOUGHT KARAMANLIS WOULD GET AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE ELECTIONS, BUT THAT HE IS LESS SURE NOW. HE IS STILL CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT KARAMANLIS WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS, PERHAPS WITH 45 TO 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. PAPALYGOURAS INDICATED THAT, WHETHER KARAMANLIS GETS AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE VOTES OR NOT, HE WILL PROBABLY WIN A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN PARLIAMENT. BOTH BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS AS LEADER OF THE CENTER UNION, WILL RUN WITH KARAMANLIS IN THE ELECTIONS. IF HE DID, THEY SAID, HE WOULD PROBABLY SPLIT HIS PARTY. PAPALYGOURAS ALSO STRESSED THAT KARAMANLIS WOULD NOT USE ANTI- AMERICANISM AS A WEAPON IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BUT THAT OTHERS, INCLUDING PAPANDREOU, WOULD. KISSINGER

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